

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 10 a.m. having arrived, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of the conference report accompanying H.R. 2490, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2490), have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by all of the conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of September 14, 1999.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 10 minutes of debate, equally divided, with the vote on adoption of the conference report to immediately follow.

Mr. CAMPBELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Colorado is recognized.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I am pleased to bring before the Senate the conference report on H.R. 2490, the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2000.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following staff be accorded floor privileges during the consideration of this conference report: Tammy Perrin, Lula Edwards, Chip Walgren, and Dylan Presman.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I urge the Senate to approve this conference report. Because of the budget constraints, we were not able to give everything that everyone wanted, obviously; but that is certainly what compromise is all about. It took us 6 weeks to get this report to conference, by the way.

At the outset, I thank the ranking member of the Treasury Subcommittee, Senator DORGAN, and his staff for all of their valuable assistance and support during that process.

The conference report provides a total of \$28,239,811,000, of which \$13,706,000,000 is discretionary spending. We have provided funding necessary for the Department of the Treasury, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and various independent agencies to move into the new millennium.

Here are some of the highlights of this conference report.

The conference provided \$12.32 million to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to Expand the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative. This is \$1.12 million more than the requested level, and brings the total funding for this very effective program to \$51.32 million.

The conference also provided \$13 million to ATF for grants to State and local law enforcement to allow participation in the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) Program. The GREAT Program provides our youth with the tools they need to resist the powerful pull of gangs and has been highly successful as a deterrent to the growth of youth gangs.

The conference report provides funding for the continued operation and growth of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. We are still very much committed to the consolidation of training for Federal law enforcement officers at FLETC. After completion of the five-year construction master plan, FLETC will be better able to serve the training demands of most Federal law enforcement agencies.

For the Customs Service, the conference has provided \$4.3 million for pre-hiring polygraph examinations and \$2.5 million for the creation of the Office of Assistant Commissioner for Training to continue integrity efforts begun last year.

The conference has funded the Customs Cyber-Smuggling Center at \$4 million, which is a \$1.6 million increase over last year.

The conference has provided full funding for the Internal Revenue Service to allow them to fulfill the requirements of the Restructuring and Reform Act, to proceed with their much-needed organizational modernization plan, and to continue necessary improvements in customer service. This funding also provides \$6 million for grants to low income taxpayer clinics.

The conference has increased funding for the very critical technology transfer program under the Drug Czar's Office. This \$13.25 million program provides drug interdiction technology to State and local law enforcement. For fiscal year 2000, the funding was increased by more than \$10 million over the administration's request.

The conference has provided \$185 million for the continued operation of the national youth anti-drug media campaign, and \$192 million for the popular and effective high intensity drug trafficking areas (HIDTA) Program. In addition, the conference has included funding for a management review of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) by an independent entity in an effort to strengthen the office's operations and programs.

The conference included a combined total of \$2 million for the model state drug law conferences and the National Drug Court Institute, programs which

assist State and local enforcement in combating the end results of drug addiction and resulting crimes.

Mr. President, again I say that everyone did not get everything, and certainly everybody doesn't agree with every provision of this bill. But I think it is a very worthy conference report, on balance, and I think we brought to the Senate an excellent product. It certainly deserves the support of the entire Senate and signature of the President.

I again thank my friend and co-worker, Senator DORGAN, for his hard work, and also the staff we depended very heavily on this time around, including Pat Raymond, Tammy Perrin, Lula Edwards, of the majority staff, Barbara Retzlaf, who left a couple weeks to go to the Commerce Department, Chip Walgren, and Dylan Presman.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. GRAHAM. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. CAMPBELL. Yes, I am glad to yield.

Mr. GRAHAM. I am concerned about how this appropriation fits into the overall caps on Federal expenditures for domestic discretionary programs that were adopted in 1997, and then the more recent recommendations of the Congressional Budget Office, which were the basis of the tax bill we passed earlier this summer. Could the Senator indicate, is this budget, in terms of its total appropriation, consistent with the 1997 Balanced Budget Act and the CBO recommendation of 1999?

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, first of all, I ask unanimous consent that an additional 5 minutes be added to the 10 minutes for any other debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I say to the Senator that we did try to stay within our allocation, as you know. We had many more requests than we were capable of dealing with and our allocation was raised by \$100 million. So we did stay within that. We simply could not fit all of the requests in the original amount we were allocated.

Mr. GRAHAM. In relationship to the Congressional Budget Office recommendations of this summer, does the Senator know where this appropriation would be?

Mr. CAMPBELL. To my knowledge, we have a number of bills we still have to complete. I believe by the time we have finished, we will still be within the budget caps. But I have no way of telling before all the other bills are through.

Mr. GRAHAM. Thank you.

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, with respect to the question offered by the

Senator from Florida, my understanding is that the caps established in the Balanced Budget Act represent aggregate caps and one can have individual subcommittees coming out with spending levels, and if those spending levels in the aggregate, with all the subcommittees, exceed the caps, you have a problem.

This particular subcommittee has worked very hard to try to produce an appropriations bill that is responsible. Nearly one-half of all Federal law enforcement is in this particular subcommittee. People do not understand that. But Customs, Secret Service, and a range of other law enforcement activities to fight drugs and crime exist in this bill.

Almost one-half of Federal law enforcement is in this piece of legislation.

I will not repeat what the Senator from Colorado described about what we did in the subcommittee. But I think it is responsible and thoughtful and most every Member of the Senate thinks it is a pretty good investment.

One of the things we didn't do in this piece of legislation is fund courthouse construction. Does there need to be some money invested in courthouses around the country to rehab some old courthouses and rebuild some? Yes, but we simply didn't have the money. We were short of resources. We had to make some difficult choices. That was one of them. It is not that the Senator from Colorado and I believe there is not a need; there is a need. But we just weren't able to respond to that.

I would like to add to his comments with respect to the work that has been done both in the Senate and in the House of Representatives on this bill.

On my staff, Chip Walgren, Barbara Retzlaff, and Dylan Presman did excellent work, and Pat Raymond, Tammy Perrin, and Lula Edwards of the majority staff have done wonderful work.

It has been a pleasure to work with Senator CAMPBELL. He is easy to work with. He is thoughtful and wants to do the right thing. It is a pleasure to work with someone with that kind of interest.

The subcommittee bill is a piece of legislation that strengthens the Government's commitment to fight drugs and crime, and the Department of the Treasury, as I indicated, has a critical law enforcement role. That is funded in this piece of legislation.

One of the pieces of legislation inside this bill is called the GREAT Program—Gang Resistance Education and Training Program.

One day not too long ago, I was invited to go over to Anacostia to a junior high school for a ceremony where some young kids were graduating from the GREAT Program, the Gang Resistance Education and Training Program. This is a school, by the way, that has had significant gang problems and a great deal of crime.

One of the police officers who is assigned to that school full time came to the meeting we had on Capitol Hill. He was describing the problems in that school—horrendous problems. We called to see if perhaps the GREAT Program could be taken to that school because they weren't participating. That program was taken over to the school, and the first graduates received their diplomas.

I went over that day with the commissioner. It was really quite remarkable. It is a wonderful program to invest in to try to educate young people about the dangers of gangs and drugs and crime.

Part of this legislation is to make the right kind of investments to prevent activities in this country that we know are destructive.

This piece of legislation continues to reform the IRS. It modernizes the Federal Election Commission. Several pieces we have put in this bill are the first steps in modernizing the FEC—the first steps that have been taken for a long, long while.

I commend this legislation to my colleagues. I hope my colleagues in the Senate will approve the work of this subcommittee. The conference with the House was difficult, but I think it produced a result that is fair and one that will merit the support of the Members of the Senate.

Again, I thank Senator CAMPBELL, who I think does a remarkable job, and his staff and the staff that has worked so hard on my behalf on the legislation.

I yield the floor.

• Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I want to thank the conferees of this bill for their work on this legislation which provides federal funding for many vital programs. However, I regret that this appropriations bill continues the unwise practice of including unacceptable levels of parochial projects. This year's Senate bill contained a little over \$293.6 million in earmarked pork-barrel spending. This year's conference report is a drastic improvement in that it only contains \$91.2 million in wasteful, pork-barrel spending. Although \$91.2 million of waste is better than \$293.6 million of waste, waste is still waste.

As my colleagues know, I have consistently fought Congressional earmarks that direct money to particular projects or recipients. I believe that such decisions are far better made through nationwide competitive, merit-based guidelines and procedures.

We must stop this destructive and irresponsible practice of earmarking special-interest pork-barrel projects in appropriations bills primarily for parochial reasons.

Where does all this pork go? This bill contains millions of dollars for courthouse construction and repairs. There is \$1,600,000 earmarked for repairs and alterations to the Kansas City Federal

Courthouse in Kansas City, Missouri, and \$1,250,000 for repairs and alterations to the Federal Courthouse in New York, New York. Although these courthouses may need repair and modernization, are these particular projects more important than the other courthouses competing for funding? The process by which these two earmarks were added makes it impossible to evaluate the relative merit of these programs against other priorities.

In addition to earmarks for courthouses, this bill contains the usual earmarks of money for locality-specific projects such as \$212,000 for renovations to the Louisville International Airport in Kentucky, and \$250,000 to the Fort Buford Historic Site in North Dakota for research and cataloging of records of this Fort.

Then there are the many sections of the report which have language strongly urging various Departments of the Federal Government to recognize or participate in a joint-venture with a particular project in a state. While these objectionable provisions have no direct monetary effect on the bill, this not-so-subtle "urging" will have some financial benefit for someone or some enterprise in a Member's home state. For example, there is report language urging the continuation and expansion of the collaboration between the University of North Dakota and the Customs Service for rotorcraft training. There is also report language urging GSA to strongly consider the U.S. Olympic Committee's need for additional space and to give priority to the USOC's request to gain title or acquire the property located at 1520 Willamette Avenue in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

This bill also selects sites across the country for which the report language "urges" the Agency not to reduce its staff. For example, there is report language providing that no reorganization of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division will result in a reduction of criminal investigators in Wisconsin and South Dakota from the 1996 level.

Why are these facilities protected at a time when each agency is required to abide by the Government Program Reduction Act which mandates that they operate more efficiently with less bureaucracy? Even if these positions are critical, they should be prioritized in the normal administrative process.

Mr. President, although we have not yet done so, we are very close to breaking the spending caps. I hope my colleagues understand that merely because we can fund these programs of questionable merit within the spending caps, that does not entitle us to spend the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars irresponsibly.

The examples of wasteful spending that I have highlighted are only a few of the examples of earmarks and special projects contained in this measure.

There are many more low-priority, wasteful, and unnecessary projects on the extensive list I have compiled. I ask that the list be printed in the RECORD immediately following my remarks.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to develop a better standard to curb our habit of directing hard-earned taxpayer dollars to locality-specific special interests.

The list follows:

OBJECTIONABLE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2490, THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT, THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, AND CERTAIN INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL

BILL LANGUAGE

Department of the Treasury

\$9,200,000 for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center for construction of two fire-arms ranges at the Artesia Center in New Mexico.

\$725,000 is earmarked for an agricultural economics program in North and/or South Dakota to conduct a research program on United States/Canadian bilateral trade of agricultural commodities and products.

\$150,000 for official reception and representation expenses associated with hosting the Inter-American Center of Tax Administration (CIAT) 2000 Conference.

Independent Agencies

An earmark of \$35,000,000 in Montgomery County, Maryland, for FDA Consolidation.

\$8,263,000 is earmarked for new construction of a border station in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan.

\$753,000 for new construction of a border station in Roosville, Montana.

An \$11,480,000 earmark for new construction of a border station in Sweetgrass, Montana.

\$277,000 for new construction of a border station in Fort Hancock, Texas.

\$11,206,000 for new construction of a border station in Oroville, Washington.

An earmark of \$475,000 for the Plains States De-population symposium.

General Provisions

Language indicating that no funds appropriated pursuant to this Act may be expended by an entity unless the entity agrees that in expending the assistance the entity will comply with sections 2 through 4 of the Act of March 3, 1993, popularly known as the "Buy American Act."

Language indicating that entities receiving assistance should, in expending the assistance, purchase only American-made equipment and products.

REPORT LANGUAGE

Report language directing the Director of Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) to provide up to \$300,000 to a graduate level criminal justice program in a Northern Plains State which can provide causal research on the link between youth and criminal activity in rural locations.

Report language that the "Acquisition, construction, improvements, and related expenses" account covers the current Master Plan construction, expanding the chilled water system, a counter terrorism facility, and completion of a new dormitory at the FLETC facility in Artesia, New Mexico.

An earmark of \$212,000 for renovations to the Louisville International Airport in Louisville, Kentucky.

Report language directing Customs to report on the merits of designating both the Hector International Airport in Fargo, North Dakota, and The Manchester Airport in Manchester, New Hampshire, as International Ports of Entry.

Report language instructing Customs to maintain current staffing levels in Arizona in fiscal year 2000 and to report on what resources are necessary to reduce wait times along the Southwest border to twenty minutes.

Report language urging the continuation and expansion of the collaboration between the University of North Dakota and the Customs Service for rotorcraft training.

Report language providing that no reorganization of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division will result in a reduction of criminal investigators in Wisconsin and South Dakota from the 1996 level.

Report language directing that the Postal Service report, on an annual basis, on the placement of ethanol flexible fuel vehicles that it has announced that it will purchase and deploy over the next two years.

Report language instructing the Postal Service to issue a report after studying and evaluating the need for a post office in Hammondville, Alabama.

Report language encouraging the Director to consider convening a national conference on rural drug crime to include regional conferences in rural areas, such as those in South Carolina, Vermont, and Missouri, in order to assess the needs of rural law enforcement and the impact of drug related crimes.

An earmark of \$1,600,000 for the repairs and alterations of the Kansas City Federal Courthouse at 811 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri.

\$1,250,000 for repairs and alterations to the Federal Courthouse at 40 Center Street, New York, New York.

An earmark of \$150,000 for the acquisition, lease, construction and equipping of the flexiplace telecommuting center in Winchester, Virginia.

\$200,000 for the acquisition, lease, construction and equipping of the flexiplace telecommuting center in Woodbridge, Virginia.

\$500,000 is earmarked for a GSA study and conceptual design of a combined federal, state, and local law enforcement facility in St. Petersburg, Florida.

\$275,000 to study the feasibility of developing a Virtual Archive Storage Terminal.

Report language urging GSA to strongly consider the U.S. Olympic Committee's [USOC] need for additional space and to give priority to the USOC's request to gain title or acquire the property located at 1520 Wilamette Avenue in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

A \$900,000 earmark for design and the preparation of an environmental impact statement for a National Archives facility in Anchorage, Alaska.

An \$8,000,000 earmark for the repair, alteration, and improvements of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, California.

\$250,000 to the Fort Buford Historic Site in North Dakota for research and cataloging of records at this Fort—a Lewis and Clark "Corps of Discovery" site.●

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, if there is no further discussion, I believe the yeas and nays have already been asked for, and I ask that we proceed to the vote on the conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have not been ordered.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I, therefore, ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the conference report. On this question, the yeas and nays have been ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAU), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 277 Leg.]

YEAS—54

Akaka	Gorton	Mikulski
Bennett	Grassley	Moynihan
Bond	Gregg	Murkowski
Boxer	Hagel	Murray
Bryan	Harkin	Nickles
Byrd	Hatch	Reed
Campbell	Hollings	Reid
Chafee	Jeffords	Rockefeller
Conrad	Johnson	Roth
Coverdell	Kerry	Sarbanes
Craig	Kohl	Shelby
Crapo	Kyl	Smith (OR)
Daschle	Landrieu	Specter
Dodd	Lautenberg	Stevens
Domenici	Levin	Thompson
Dorgan	Lieberman	Thurmond
Durbin	Lott	Torricelli
Feinstein	Lugar	Voinovich

NAYS—38

Abraham	Enzi	Lincoln
Allard	Feingold	Mack
Ashcroft	Fitzgerald	McConnell
Baucus	Frist	Robb
Bayh	Graham	Roberts
Bingaman	Gramm	Santorum
Brownback	Grams	Schumer
Bunning	Helms	Sessions
Burns	Hutchinson	Smith (NH)
Cleland	Hutchison	Snowe
Collins	Inhofe	Thomas
DeWine	Kerrey	Wyden
Edwards	Leahy	

NOT VOTING—8

Biden	Inouye	Warner
Breaux	Kennedy	Wellstone
Cochran	McCain	

The conference report was agreed to. Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. DORGAN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to explain why I voted "no" on the Treasury Postal Appropriations conference report.

First, I am concerned that the contraceptive mandate included in the Treasury/Postal Appropriations bill is a precedent setting attempt to mandate coverage of abortifacients that have been approved—or will be approved in the future—by the Federal Food and Drug Administration.

Second, I am concerned that this mandate constitutes an attempt to eventually force providers who have either a moral or religious objection to abortion services to provide those services, or lose the ability to provide health care within the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan. The FEHBP mandate does not have adequate conscience clause protection for sponsors of health plans and individual providers who are opposed to providing such drugs and devices. Conscience clause protection for individual providers needs to be clarified to protect any health care provider, including but not limited to physicians, nurses and physician assistants who object to providing these drugs or devices on the basis of religious beliefs or moral convictions.

Third, this misnamed “contraceptive” mandate is being used to help “mainstream” abortifacient drugs to which many health professionals, pharmacies, and patients have serious objections. It reduces federal employees’ freedom to choose the health benefits they want; ignores health plans’ potential moral objections; and increases pressure on health professionals to ignore their own conscientious convictions. All of this, ironically, is done in the name of “freedom of choice.”

Fourth, I do not believe that the federal government should issue healthcare mandates. Mandating the FEHBP providers cover contraceptives as part of their health plan constitutes the first time in the history of the FEHBP that Congress has issued a mandate on a coverage.

Fifth, I am also concerned that this may be the first step by some in Congress to issue a similar mandate on private insurers. Such a mandate on private insurers will drive up costs and lead to uninsurance at the margins.

Therefore, because of the inclusion of this provision in the conference report I voted “no.”

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT—Continued

CHANGE OF VOTE

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recorded as voting “nay” on yesterday’s rollcall vote No. 274 related to the germaneness of a provision in the Shelby substitute amendment to H.R. 2084, the fiscal year 2000 Transportation appropriations bill. This will not change the outcome of the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRAMM addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I am eager for this bill to be complete. I don’t intend to offer an amendment, but I would like to say a couple of words.

I am somewhat taken by the fact that suddenly the Senate is made up of numerous Members who want to run the airlines. We have undertaken tremendous efforts to be elected to the Senate. In doing so, we have taken up a high calling. We have a responsibility in American Government.

But for some reason, yesterday and today, all of a sudden Members of the Senate have decided we ought to take it upon ourselves to tell the airlines in the United States how they ought to be run, and we want to do it without the inconvenience of having to go out and invest billions of dollars.

My point is a very simple point. That is, for some reason—I don’t know if it is the weather, the change in the barometric pressure, whatever—suddenly Members of the Senate have become experts in running airlines, all without the inconvenience of having to go out and raise money or invest their own money and without the inconvenience of having to take responsibility if their plans go bad.

My basic view is that we have good airlines in America. All of us have had bad experiences on airlines: The weather went bad. We have had experiences where we bought a cheaper ticket and would have liked to have flown on a different flight. We wanted a cheap fare, but it would have been nice had they let us fly on the other flight.

The point is, we deregulated the airlines. We have benefited from a dramatic decline in the cost of air transportation. Millions of average Americans have moved out of the bus station and into the airport. Now all of a sudden it has become the popular mania in the Senate to want to start having the Congress—in this case, the Senate—run the airlines. I just didn’t want it all to pass without making some comment on it.

I thank the Chair for the time.

AMENDMENT NO. 1679

(Purpose: To make available funds for the monitoring and reporting on the transfer of passenger air transportation tickets among airlines)

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of Senator DASCHLE, Senator WYDEN, and myself.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is in order for the Senator to submit the amendment on behalf of the minority leader. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Louisiana [Ms. LANDRIEU], for Mr. DASCHLE, for himself, Ms.

LANDRIEU, and Mr. WYDEN, proposes an amendment numbered 1679.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 65, line 22, before the period at the end of the line, insert the following “: *Provided*, it is the sense of the Senate That the funds made available under this heading shall be used for the submission to the appropriate committees of Congress by the Inspector General, not later than July 15, 2000, of a report on the extent to which air carriers and foreign carriers deny travel to airline consumers with non-refundable tickets from one carrier to another, including recommendations to develop a passenger-friendly and cost-effective solution to ticket transfers among airlines when seats are available.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I think my good friend, the distinguished Senator from Texas, might be referring to me and others, but I assure him that I have no intention of trying to run an airline. I am challenged at this moment to run my office. I am trying to do a good job at that and to represent the 4.5 million people who live in my State, which is the job of all Senators.

I come to the floor with great humility. The last thing I want to do is run an airline. I think the deregulation of the airlines has brought great benefits to our Nation and to this industry. I have no intention at all of moving the clock back.

I do think—because so many people now, and growing by leaps and bounds, use air travel in our Nation and the world to conduct their business, which is very dependent on the efficiency of the system, and because this is a very important industry in our Nation, and because the Senate is responsible for giving guidance to many industries—that my amendment is most certainly appropriate.

I have asked it to be a sense-of-the-Senate amendment to ask for a study to be done this year that would ask the airlines to find a cost-effective way and a passenger-friendly way for the transfer of tickets between airlines to facilitate the convenience of our constituents who live in Texas and in Alabama and Louisiana and Montana and Ohio and Hawaii and all of our States—and in Kansas, particularly in Kansas, right in the middle there, people need to get out and about and around.

I thank the Chair for the opportunity to present this sense-of-the-Senate amendment. I am sorry if there are others who will object, but I think it is an important amendment. I offer it in serious fashion for the Senate’s consideration.

Senator GRAMM addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.